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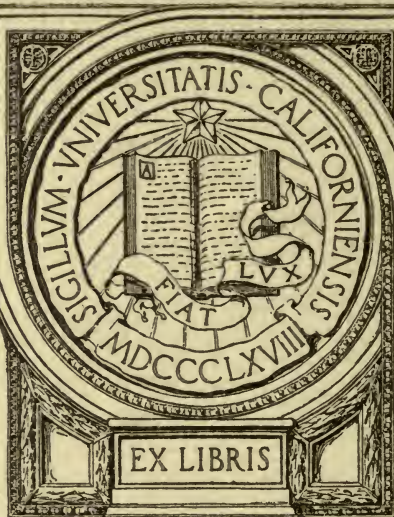


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IN ASSEMBLY,

FEBRUARY 15, 1904.

REPORT

OF THE

Commission to Investigate the Condition of the Adult
Blind in the State of New York.

STATE OF NEW YORK:

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER.

ALBANY, February 15, 1904.

To the Legislature:

I have the honor to transmit herewith the report of the Commission to Investigate the Condition of the Adult Blind in the State of New York.

B. B. ODELL, JR.

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TO THE
ATTORNEY

REPORT.

To the Honorable the Legislature of the State of New York:

Gentlemen—In accordance with the provisions of chapter 576, Laws of 1903, entitled “An act to provide for the appointment of a Commission to Investigate the Condition of the Adult Blind in the State of New York and to report on the expediency of the establishment by the State of industrial training schools or other institutions, and making an appropriation to provide for the expenses of such commission,” which act became a law on May 13, 1903, we, the Commissioners duly appointed by the Governor in accordance with the provisions of the aforesaid act, have now the honor to present the following report:

CIRCUMSTANCES LEADING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF THE COMMISSION.

When the State of New York first began to adopt measures to provide for the education of its blind citizens it was foreseen that as all of them could not follow a professional life it would be necessary to make some provisions for industrial as well as for intellectual training; and hence, first, in the institution for the blind which was established in New York city and later in that which was subsequently established at Batavia industrial departments were inaugurated in which the pupils could learn such trades as experience might show to be most advantageous for their condition.

But it was soon found that very many persons who had lost their sight after they had become adults were extremely desir-

ous of being taught some industrial pursuit, and also that among those who had been thus trained at the two institutions many wished these establishments to continue to provide them with work, claiming that they were unable either to start in business for themselves or to secure employment from others. Each institution in its turn endeavored at first to partially meet these demands; but these endeavors, which at the best necessarily benefited a few only of the many who needed similar assistance, so imperiled the usefulness of these institutions as moral and intellectual educators of the youthful blind and also entailed such financial losses that first in New York city and later at Batavia these endeavors to aid the adult blind were entirely discontinued. Hence, at the present time, while the State has nobly provided for the intellectual and to some extent for the industrial training of blind children in the two institutions which have just been named, those blind persons who lose their sight in adult life have no means of acquiring an industrial trade, while those who have been already thus trained at an institution are compelled to depend entirely upon their own ability to secure work and to support themselves thereby.

It was perfectly natural and right that the State should first give its attention to the education of the youthful blind, and it is also sound to insist that the two institutions which are engaged in this work shall not be burdened with the task of training adults or of providing work for them. Still the question, "What can the State do to ameliorate the condition of the adult blind?" is one which has for some years been forcing itself with ever increasing urgency upon all who have anything to do with those who have lost their sight. As the blind are in general in indigent circumstances, and the adults are far more numerous

than the young, it has seemed to many who have considered the subject that it would be impossible for the State, beyond its general charities, to make any adequate provisions for the former class. But even if we are willing to resign to the care of the existing public and private charities all those blind persons who have now become too old to learn or to follow any of the industrial pursuits which are generally considered to be feasible for those who have lost their sight, and also all those younger adult blind persons who have been left by disease physically or mentally unsound, there will still remain a large class of able-bodied adults, and it ought at least to be possible to render most of these people either in whole or in part self-supporting. This view of the case has been taken also by other States, and some of them have already adopted measures designed for the amelioration of the condition of their adult blind citizens.

The foregoing facts, which will, it is hoped, sufficiently explain why some legislation was deemed desirable, led the Senator from Wyoming county, the Hon. Frederick C. Stevens, to frame and to introduce the bill which subsequently became a law, and your Commissioners, who were later designated by the Governor, accepted their several appointments with the hope that after due investigation they might be able to recommend to your honorable body such measures as would in some degree at least accomplish the objects sought by this law. If this hope has not been fully realized, they have at all events given the subject much thoughtful consideration; and have also in the brief time allotted to them for their work carefully examined, so far as possible, all the data available upon which their recommendations should be founded.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMISSION.

Owing to a mistake which need not here be explained, the Brooklyn member of your Commission did not receive his appointment until the 23d of June, but on the 26th of the same month the Commission held its first formal meeting and organized by electing the following officers: President, F. Park Lewis, M. D., Buffalo, N. Y.; vice-president, Lewis Buffett Carl, A. M., Brooklyn, N. Y.; secretary, O. H. Burritt, A. M., Batavia, N. Y.

Since its organization, which was effected in New York city, the Commission has (1) held six meetings, three in the city of Buffalo, and three at its office in Batavia; (2) has studied and analyzed the United States census of the blind of 1900, together with the New York city list of blind pensioners; (3) has caused to be made a personal visitation of about one-sixth of the entire blind population of the State, besides announcing the appointment of the Commission, and calling for an expression of opinion from about 1,000 more; (4) has had correspondence with all the superintendents of the poor of the State; (5) has held correspondence with all the institutions for the blind in the United States and Canada and with many abroad; (6) has given one formal and two informal hearings to the blind and their friends, and (7) has had correspondence and conference with the chairman of the Massachusetts Commission recently appointed for the same purpose.

Your Commission has also, through one or more of its members, personally visited (1) the Industrial Home for the Blind (men), Brooklyn; (2) the Church Home for Blind Women, Brooklyn; (3) the Society for the Relief of the Destitute Blind, New York city; (4) the St. Joseph's Blind Asylum, Staten Island, New York city; (5) Homes for the Blind, Blackwell's Island,

New York city; (6) the Connecticut Institute and Industrial Home for the Blind, Hartford; (7) the Columbia Polytechnic Institute for the Blind, Washington; (8) the Pennsylvania Working Home for Blind Men, Philadelphia; (9) the Pennsylvania Industrial Home for Blind Women, Philadelphia; (10) the St. Joseph's Home for Blind Females, Jersey City; (11) the Perkins Institution and Massachusetts School for the Blind, South Boston; (12) the Maryland School for the Blind, Baltimore; (13) the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind, Overbrook, Philadelphia; (14) the Institution for the Blind, New York city; (15) the New York State School for the Blind, Batavia.

But with the exception of this general statement it is believed that the present report should aim to present a comprehensive view of the work as a whole which has been done by the Commission, with as small an amount of chronological or personal detail as circumstances would seem to permit.

TWO LINES OF INVESTIGATION FOR THE COMMISSION.

In soon became evident to the members of your Commission that if they would acquire the knowledge necessary to enable them to make any wise recommendations to your honorable body they must first ascertain, so far as possible, what is the general condition of the adult blind in the State of New York; and second, what public or private measures have already been adopted either in this State or elsewhere to improve the condition of the adult blind. Information regarding the first of these points must be obtained either from an examination of existing public or private records concerning the blind or from some system of personal correspondence or visitation.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE RECORDS.

Your Commission soon discovered that documentary information regarding the blind of the State of New York was exceedingly meager and untrustworthy. Indeed, the only two records of any extent which could be found are, first, that which was derived from the United States census of 1900 containing the names of 6,008 blind persons; and second, that of the adult blind pensioners of the Greater New York, containing more than 1,000 names.

As it seemed reasonable to hope that a careful examination of these two records might furnish some valuable information bearing upon the work of your Commission, an early effort was made to secure at least one copy of each.

From the State Library at Albany, which had previously received from Washington the last census records of all the blind residing in the State of New York, those records were, through the courtesy of Melvil Dewey, director of this library, forwarded to Batavia to be copied and subsequently returned. From the census list we were able to ascertain with reference to each individual the name, address, degree of blindness (whether total or partial) color, sex, age in 1900, those who are blind and deaf, and blind and deaf and dumb.

In the person of the Hon. Homer Folks, commissioner of charities of New York city, your Commissioners found a coadjutor always ready to do for them in their work whatever might lie within his power. Through the courtesy of this gentleman, and also through that of Second Deputy Commissioner Charles E. Teale of Brooklyn, your Commissioner from the last named city was permitted to make, through any person whom he might

wish to send, a copy of the adult blind pension records of the so-called Greater New York.

It seemed desirable in the first place to endeavor to ascertain approximately from their recorded ages how many of the adult blind of the State of New York might be assumed to be now in the prime of life.

By reference to Table II of Appendix A on page 53 of this report it will be observed that of the 6,008 blind persons in the State only 584, or 9.72 per cent., of the total number are under 21 years of age; 3,193, or 53.14 per cent., are over 60 years of age; 1,375, or 22.88 per cent., are between the ages of 21 and 50. This number may reasonably be assumed to be the number of the blind of the State who are now in the prime of life, and these are the persons who may be supposed to be capable of being rendered in whole or in part self-supporting, and for whose interests chiefly your Commission was created.

By reference to the statistical table based upon the pension list of 1903 of the city of New York, which constitutes Appendix B, page 59 of this report, it will be learned that 510, or 50 per cent., of the 1,002 beneficiaries for the current year were between the ages of 21 and 50 and 324, or 32 per cent., of the total number of beneficiaries were above 60 years of age.

It is a notable fact, for which your Commission will not essay to account, that while the census list shows that but 22.88 per cent. of the entire blind population of the State are of what may be assumed to be of working age, that is between the ages of 21 and 50, 50 per cent. of the recipients of the benefactions of the city of New York are within these same age limits; and that quite contrary to what might be expected, only 32 per cent. of the pensioners of the city of New York are above 60 years of

age, although over 53 per cent. of the blind of the State are above this age limit.

It was deemed desirable also to endeavor to ascertain what conditions hold among the adult blind of the State with respect to property, marriage and present or previous occupation. But as the records in question, and particularly those of the United States census, failed to furnish the data required, it was found necessary to pursue another mode of investigation.

PERSONAL VISITATION OF THE BLIND.

When available records were found to be unsatisfactory the Batavia member of your Commission having learned of a plan which, although for a different purpose, had been adopted by Mr. Edward E. Allen, superintendent of the School for the Blind in Philadelphia, suggested to his colleagues the employment of a visitor who, taking the addresses of the blind as given in the census report for a general guide, should seek to visit each given blind person in any locality, and also to learn from him of the existence of any other, ascertaining also from his neighbors the reliability of the data given.

This suggestion was adopted, and for the experiment the Commissioner just mentioned had in mind a young man of exceptional fitness, who, although himself blind, generally traveled alone and could therefore better gain the confidence of those blind persons whom he visited. This young man investigated the facts concerning 610 blind persons, visiting practically all of the blind residents of Broome, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Chemung, Genesee, Livingston, Orleans, Schuyler, Tioga and Wyoming counties, and some of those residing in Allegany, Erie, Monroe, Niagara and Steuben counties.

When two months of work had demonstrated to the Commission that this plan was a success, and that the material being gathered was of great value to their work, a second young man, likewise without sight, was employed to similarly visit some of the blind in the southeastern part of the State. During the brief time for which he was employed he similarly investigated the facts regarding 192 blind persons resident in Dutchess, Columbia and Putnam counties.

Two young women with sight were likewise employed, one of whom investigated 37 cases in Franklin county, while the other visited 121, resident chiefly in Monroe, Steuben and Wayne counties.

It will thus be seen that in this work the Commission caused to be personally investigated the larger portion of western New York entire, three counties in southeastern New York and one in northern New York, so that all sections of the State are represented in the results obtained.

Because it was believed that more was known, or could be easily ascertained about the condition of the blind in cities than about that of those in the rural districts, work was confined to the latter.

Owing to the fact that your Commission could not organize until the beginning of the summer vacations, and that these vacations still further delayed certain necessary preliminary work, scarcely more than four months remained for the prosecution of any kind of investigation, and little more than three months in which rural visitations could be conducted with any advantage. Nevertheless, in the brief time allotted, 960 cases were investigated, and such records concerning them obtained as would enable one to form a tolerably good estimate of the

general condition of each. Although these visitations were made mostly in rural districts, their expense was but \$626.72, or 65 cents for each person found; and they could be made in large towns and cities, and particularly in New York city, at a much less cost.

It is, therefore, greatly to be regretted that time did not permit the extension of the same methods to the blind of the entire State, since in no other way can a really accurate knowledge of their condition be obtained. Whether or not such knowledge would readily point out the way in which these conditions could be best relieved, your Commission will not undertake to assert.

The conclusions which your Commissioners have drawn from the data secured by these personal visitations are found at the close of this report, and several items of interest and importance are set forth in tabular form in Appendix C, page 60, which forms a part of this report.

CONSULTING THE ADULT BLIND OF NEW YORK CITY.

In lieu of personally visiting the adult blind of New York city, where the prevailing conditions were fairly well known, the following methods were adopted. Through the kind assistance of the Hon. Homer Folks, and also through the thoughtfulness of First Deputy Commissioner Dougherty, the latter of whom first suggested the plan, the Brooklyn member of your Commission was enabled to meet the adult blind pensioners of New York city, and a week later those of Brooklyn, as they came together to receive their annual pensions; and taking them in groups he briefly addressed each, telling his hearers about the appointment and objects of the Commission, asking them to think and talk the matter over among themselves and closing

by inviting all who might have any opinion to express as to the nature of the recommendations which the Commission ought to make to your honorable body, to communicate that opinion to him either in writing, or by calling upon him at his residence, after which he handed his card to each. In this manner nearly all of the 1,000 pensioners must have been reached.

After this "The Adult Blind Union" of New York city, having secured a small hall through the good offices of the Hon. George P. Richter, and having also by means of the pension list notified selected persons to be present, invited the aforesaid Commissioner to attend and to give an informal hearing. This he did, meeting about 100 adult blind men and women, most of whom are trying to conduct some business for themselves. A little later he attended in Brooklyn a meeting of about 40 men who are engaged in industrial pursuits.

In both of these cases, after briefly explaining the objects of the Commission, a free discussion was invited upon any subject connected with the work of the Commission, and an informal system of questioning was employed by him. But the results of the method adopted at the distribution of the pension were not very satisfactory, since most of the writers and callers, who were not very numerous, merely wished assistance in getting their pension. Even the others only suggested matters which were subsequently discussed at the two informal hearings. These two meetings were therefore more satisfactory, although even in these most of the grievances complained of and most of the schemes for betterment require no legislation on the part of the State, being matters belonging exclusively to New York city, and being controllable by that municipality.

Although they would not take much trouble to make their

views known, there appears to be a practical unanimity of opinion among the adult blind of the city of New York with regard to the following matters: First, the removal of all those obstacles which would prevent them from making their living in any way which does not conflict with the rights of others; second, no radical change in the present pension system; third, no attempt to compel them to go into a home for the blind; fourth, some legislation, if possible, to enable a blind person who is accompanied by a guide to travel for a single fare upon any railway, trolley or other public carrying conveyance within the jurisdiction of the State of New York, which last matter has been under discussion among the blind for several years.

These facts are not given as the views of the Commission, but as representing the thought of those of the adult blind reached by the Commissioner from Brooklyn.

GENERAL HEARING.

In addition to these informal hearings the full Commission on December 9th gave a public formal hearing at a meeting held under the auspices of the Buffalo Charity Organization Society, in the parlors of the Hotel Genesee in the city of Buffalo. This meeting was attended by a number of charity workers and by blind men engaged in various occupations. Several of these spoke before the Commission, giving their views as to the difficulties which the blind must meet and the manner in which they could be overcome.

INQUIRIES ABOUT BLIND IN ALMSHOUSES.

As another aid to ascertaining the general condition of the adult blind in the State of New York, your Commission addressed a circular letter to the superintendents of the poor of

each of the counties of the State, with the exception of the city of New York, which almshouse was personally visited by one of the members of your Commission.

This letter failing to elicit the information desired, a second letter was subsequently sent, and as a result of these two letters of inquiry replies were received from all the counties in the State with the exception of ten.

A table showing by sexes the number of blind inmates in the almshouses of the State from which data were furnished forms Appendix D.

From these replies, as will be seen by reference to Appendix D, it was learned that only 1.79 per cent. of the blind in the State are found in the almshouses, and of these, so far as can be determined from the facts given, not more than one in ten would be fit candidates for an industrial institution of any character whatever.

EXISTING PROVISIONS FOR THE ADULT BLIND IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

In following the second line of their investigation, i. e., in ascertaining what public or private measures have already been adopted either here or elsewhere for bettering the condition of the adult blind, your Commissioners naturally first gave their attention to this State; and they have personally visited each home mentioned as being within its limits. They feel, however, warranted in asserting that beyond the limits of the five boroughs which compose the present city of New York there is, with the exception of the almshouse, no public or private provision of any kind for the adult blind. It is not even known that any adult blind persons are provided for in any home for the

aged, although it is possible that such may be the case in a very few instances. It was therefore only necessary to examine the various modes of assisting the adult blind which have been inaugurated in the city of New York, all of which are maintained by the city or by private liberality.

I. CITY PENSION FOR THE BLIND.

So far as the adult blind of the Greater New York are concerned, the most far-reaching of all the charities, whether public or private, is the annual pension which the city grants to the majority of them. For the last forty years at least New York city has bestowed annually upon each adult blind person having no real or personal property, and not being an inmate of any charitable institution, a pension which has ranged from \$35 to \$50, the primary object being to help those who were trying to help themselves. When by the act of consolidation the Greater New York was formed this pension was extended to all the boroughs, the present charter providing that an amount not exceeding \$75,000 in any one year might be appropriated by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment for this purpose, and that no more than \$100 should be granted to any one blind person. As a matter of fact, however, the appropriation has never reached this limit, that for the last year being \$49,950, giving to each accepted applicant \$49. As might be expected from the growth of the city the number of these pensioners continually increases, and last August it reached 1,018, not counting those who applied but were rejected. To obtain this pension the applicant must fill out a certain blank. After this a public visitor employed for that purpose is supposed to call at the residence of the applicant, and also to take any other means which may sug-

gest themselves in order to discover whether or not the applicant has made any false statements, and upon his report, provided the oculist who always examines his eyes concurs, the application is generally granted or denied. So far from being fixed by law the date of payment is exceedingly irregular; neither are the blind of Brooklyn and New York generally paid at the same time and never at the same place. Two or three days before the payment is to be made a postal is mailed to each applicant informing him or her of the date of payment, and this postal must generally be presented in person at the designated rendezvous, which is always the Department of Charities of New York or Brooklyn, as the case may be.

II. ADULT BLIND ON BLACKWELL'S ISLAND.

The almshouse system of Blackwell's Island also provides for a considerable number of adult blind persons. These persons are there of their own volition, and are in no sense criminals; those who are arrested for and convicted of vagrancy being sent to the workhouse on Hart's Island, the number of such commitments being, it is unofficially said, about one a month. Through the consideration and kindness of Commissioner Folks the blind on Blackwell's Island were separated from the other inmates of the almshouse and assigned two wards, one for men and the other for women; and in this way they have been enabled to fare somewhat better than their neighbors. When these wards (which are now called homes for the blind) were visited, they contained 67 men and 70 women, although the numbers of each are continually varying. Nearly all the women appeared to be old, and only two of them had ever been pupils of an institution for the blind; and these the records show to

have always been somewhat deficient in intellect. Among the men the case was somewhat different, as eight of them had once been pupils in some school for the blind, and the average age appeared to be much less than that of the women. But even in this ward it would be doubtful whether more than a fifth of the inmates could be taught, or could follow any trade. Nevertheless Commissioner Folks some time ago started the broom industry among them, and as he was soon able to obtain all the brooms he required for his departments he was quite hopeful for the future of his undertaking.

III. PRIVATE HOMES FOR THE BLIND.

There are within the limits of the present city of New York four private homes for the blind, containing in all somewhat more than 150 persons.

Of these the largest is that maintained by the Society for the Relief of the Destitute Blind of New York City in the Borough of Manhattan, being situated at One hundred and fourth street and Amsterdam avenue. This is a home for both men and women, and maintains about 50 of each. It is supported entirely by private contributions, and although founded by an Episcopal clergyman, is now entirely nonsectarian. What industries are practiced are only for the benefit of the inmates and contribute nothing towards the support of the home.

The second in importance, which is called "The Industrial Home for the Blind," is situated at 512 Gates avenue in the borough of Brooklyn, and it is in reality a home for men only. This home aims, first, to make its inmates self-supporting by furnishing them with constant work in certain industrial pursuits while charging them a nominal board; and, second, to

furnish work to those blind men who wish to work there but to live elsewhere. The trades followed are the making of all kinds of brooms, the cane seating of chairs and the making and renovating of mattresses. When this home was visited it was maintaining about 20 inmates, and furnishing partial work to about as many more, who may be called "outmates," although as it has abundant ground it is extending its accommodations. Nevertheless its superintendent, Mr. E. P. Morford, stated that the industrial department of the home barely paid its own expenses, so that the establishment is almost entirely dependent upon private liberality. This is the only industrial home in the State of New York.

There is also in Brooklyn a home for blind women, and it is now located at 550 Washington avenue. As the establishment was on the verge of financial ruin its care has been lately assumed by the Church Foundation of the Protestant Episcopal Church, although it is still open to all Protestants and receives some Catholics. When visited it contained 18 inmates, but no trades were followed.

There is also in the borough of Richmond, i. e., Staten Island, a combined school and home for blind girls and women only which is called the St. Joseph's Blind Asylum, and which is under the care of the Sisters of Charity. This home is at Mount Loretto, between Prince's Bay and Pleasant Plains, and when it was visited contained only 12 adult inmates. Nevertheless Sister Anne, who expended her own private fortune in erecting a most beautiful building, has accommodations for more than 100 inmates, and she will without doubt soon receive such contributions from Catholic sources as will enable her to provide for a large number of adults, together with the children.

It will thus appear that the public and private charities of the entire city of New York reach no less than 1,300 of the probable 1,800 adult blind persons of this city.

It will now also be evident why, in an earlier portion of this report, your Commissioners stated that the conditions of the adult blind of New York city were apparently at least better than those of the adult blind who reside in any other part of the State, and that hence the blind of that city were not anxious about State assistance.

EXISTING PROVISIONS FOR THE ADULT BLIND IN OTHER STATES.

Whether in the United States or Europe all the methods which have been adopted in order to ameliorate the condition of the adult blind may, your Commissioners believe, be classified under some one of the following divisions :

- (1) The giving of alms to them as mendicants simply.
- (2) The granting of pensions to them merely as indigent blind persons.
- (3) The establishment of homes for them in which they are required to do no work.
- (4) The endeavor to provide work for them in their own homes or elsewhere among the sighted; also when necessary to teach them some industrial pursuit in their own homes.
- (5) The establishment of industrial training schools in which the adult blind may be taught some suitable trade or business.
- (6) The establishment of industrial homes, i. e., homes in which the inmates are required at least to contribute towards their support by working at some trade.
- (7) The establishment of workshops, where the blind may work at certain trades but live outside.

(8) The offering of a combination of some of the preceding features, the last being the real status of almost every industrial home examined.

The first three of these methods may be regarded as charity simply, while the others are various methods for encouragement of self-help. Again, the first, second and fourth of these methods are aids requiring no establishment for the blind, while the others are dependent upon such establishments.

I. MENDICANCY.

Time did not permit, neither did your Commissioners feel it incumbent upon them to make any general inquiries as to the extent of mendicancy among the blind, although it is well known that direct personal gifts constitute the oldest and also the most common method of assisting those who have lost their sight, and it is believed that very many of the blind are dependent for their support either in whole or in part upon this form of charity.

II. PENSIONS.

Besides the pension system which obtains in the city of New York, the city of Cleveland, Ohio, grants a pension of \$100, payable semiannually, to the blind of that city.

The General Assembly of the State of Illinois, in April, 1903, enacted into law a bill which provides that it shall be lawful for any county, at the discretion of the county commissioners or the board of supervisors, to contribute to all male persons over the age of 21 years and to all female persons over the age of 18 years who are blind the sum of \$150 per annum, payable quarterly. The law further provides that "no person or persons who are charges of any charitable institution in this State

or any county or city thereof, or persons having an income of more than \$250 per annum, or persons who have not resided in the State of Illinois continually for ten consecutive years and in their respective counties three years immediately before applying for said benefit, shall be entitled to the provisions of this act."

The foregoing pension provision of the State of Illinois, together with the pensions granted by the city of New York and the city of Cleveland, are the only pension provisions in the United States which have come to the knowledge of your Commissioners, but in Great Britain the pension system seems to be much more general.

III. HOMES.

Except the homes already described in the State of New York, the only other home, pure and simple, which has come to the attention of your Commissioners is the one situated on Pavonia avenue, Jersey City, under the control of the Sisters of Charity and containing, when it was visited, more than 50 women.

IV. INSTRUCTION OF THE ADULT BLIND IN THEIR OWN HOMES.

The only exemplification in this country of carrying instruction to the blind in their own homes that has come to the attention of your Commission is that which is now in vogue in the State of Massachusetts. From the first and second annual reports upon this work, made by the Perkins Institution and Massachusetts School for the Blind to the State Board of Education, we glean the following information: "By direction of the Legislature in 1899 the State Board of Education made an inquiry into the feasibility of instructing the adult blind at their homes." The results of these investigations were sub-

mitted in a report to the Legislature in May, 1900, written by the able secretary of the State Board of Education of the State of Massachusetts, the Hon. Frank A. Hill. In consequence thereof the following act submitted by the committee on education was passed: "There shall be allowed and paid out of the treasury of the commonwealth a sum not exceeding \$1,000, to be expended by the Perkins Institution and Massachusetts School for the Blind for the instruction of the adult blind in their homes; but no expenditure shall be made under this act until the plans of such instruction have received the approval of the State Board of Education. * * *

"The work was inaugurated on the first of November, 1900, by the selection of two teachers, themselves blind, and a third was soon added to the number.

"A thorough canvass of the cities and towns was then taken, in each of which the leaflets were freely circulated, and all through the newspapers, the schools, the churches and organized societies the attention of the citizens was called to the possibilities of the work and their cooperation urged.

"There are now (January 6, 1903) two men and two women engaged in the work, a fourth teacher having been employed since the first day of September, 1902. These, apportioning the different sections of the State among themselves, travel ceaselessly to and fro and make their arrangements so as to utilize time, distance and money to the best possible advantage, and to visit each pupil regularly and frequently.

"The following statistics will give in brief form a comprehensive view of the work accomplished for the years 1901 and 1902.

	1901.	1902.
Number visited	130	140
Number taught	No data.	115
Number refusing instruction	20	25
Number receiving instruction in reading....	68	146
Number receiving instruction in writing....	39	51
Number receiving instruction in sewing	7.	12
Number receiving instruction in knitting ...	13	19
Number receiving instruction in crocheting .	1	3
Number receiving instruction in use of sewing machine	2	3
Number receiving instruction in caning chair seats	5	5
Number receiving instruction in tuning piano fortes	1	2
Number receiving instruction in gymnastics..	2	0
Number receiving instruction in manual alphabet	3	0
Number receiving instruction in typewriting.	0	1
Number receiving instruction in type slates..	0	3
Number receiving instruction in musical Braille	0	7
Average age of pupils.....	No data.	54
Number over 50 years of age.....	No data.	110
Number under 25.....	No data.	12
Number of calls made by teachers.....	265	619
Number of lessons given by teachers.....	942	1,296
Number of miles traveled by teachers.....	23,914	33,810

The total expenses for the work from November, 1900, to the first of January, 1902, amounted to \$3,583.15. The amount of money expended the second year is not shown in the report.

V. INDUSTRIAL TRAINING SCHOOLS.

The best known, if not the only industrial training school in the strict sense of this term, is the Connecticut Institute and Industrial Home for the Blind, located at Hartford. This is a combined kindergarten and industrial training school, the two being in separate buildings. The industrial training school department maintains of late from 30 to 35 pupils, and is for the blind of both sexes without any restriction as to age or marriage.

The General Assembly of Connecticut in 1893 passed an act creating a State Board of Education for the Blind, which consists of the Governor, the Chief Justice and two additional members appointed by the Governor for a term of four years. This board was charged with the educational interests of the blind of the State, both children and adults. They were empowered to make such rules as they deemed advisable in order to carry out the purpose of their creation. The applicants for admission are determined by this Board of Education upon the nomination of the superintendent of the institution. The appointments of adults are for the purpose of learning a trade, and are for a period of not exceeding three years, during which period the State appropriates \$300 per annum. At the expiration of this appointment the State also permits an expenditure of not exceeding \$200 for the purpose of furnishing the graduate with such tools or outfit as may be required for the trade that he has learned.

The superintendent reports that many graduates who are good workmen for others cannot succeed when they undertake to conduct business for themselves, and it is this fact that causes the superintendent to feel that the workshop feature will ultimately be added to the institution. The superintendent states that, of the 105 adults who have received industrial training at the insti-

tution, at least 50 per cent. are practically self-supporting. The trades or occupations which are taught and the number receiving instruction in each are as follows:

Broom making, 15 men.

Chair caning, 18 men and women.

Mattress making, 3 persons.

Upholstering, 1 person.

Piano tuning, 2 persons.

Printing, 16, mostly women.

Typewriting and massage, 2 each.

Cooking, 1.

VI. INDUSTRIAL HOMES.

The most successful industrial home in the United States for blind men and blind women is the Industrial Home of Mechanical Trades for the Adult Blind, situated at Oakland, Cal. Inasmuch as it was impossible for any of your Commissioners to visit this institution, information on several important points is less definite than is that concerning the institutions visited.

From recent reports and correspondence we glean the following information: This institution, established in 1887 by the State of California, by the appropriation of \$65,000 for its support, has a capacity for about 110 inmates, only about one-fifth being women. The principal industries followed are the manufacture of brooms, mattresses and hammocks and the cane seating of chairs. The current expenses are apparently met by the proceeds of the labor of the inmates, but appropriations have been made by the Legislature for erecting and maintaining the necessary buildings. The proceeds of the labor for the fiscal year closing November 30, 1903, were \$18,343.99.

Judging from the material at hand your Commissioners are of the opinion that the efficiency of this institution is due in large measure to the wise management of its superintendent, Mr. Joseph Sanders, a graduate of the New York Institution for the Blind.

VII. WORKSHOPS.

(1) The Columbia Polytechnic Institute, which was founded by Mr. Frank E. Cleaveland, is situated at 1808 H street Northwest, Washington, D. C., and is at the present time merely a small printing establishment, conducted almost entirely by blind persons. In this respect it only emphasizes the possibility of one of the trades already followed at the Hartford institution, with which establishment Mr. Cleaveland was formerly connected. But by the introduction of a simplex type-setter, which even when it is used by the sighted requires the services of two persons—one for the keys and one to justify the type lines—he has rendered it possible, as this latter person can also read copy while a blind operator plays the keys, to employ no extra hand to read copy, while at the same time much more work is done than could be accomplished by two compositors. But although Mr. Cleaveland's present plant is very small, employing about a dozen blind persons, and is also limited almost entirely to a single trade, his plans, if he can obtain the congressional aid which he has been expecting and which he still expects, seem very good. It is his hope to found an extensive institution or plant in which he can employ blind men and women upon the same conditions as if they possessed their sight, offering them a variety of trades and compelling them to find their own boarding quarters like the sighted.

(2) As your Commissioners did not visit the Indiana Industrial Home for Blind Men, situated at 1146 West Twenty-seventh

street, Indianapolis, they will allow its superintendent, Mr. C. S. McGiffin, to tell his own story regarding it:

“Our institution is not a home, as its corporate name indicates, but it is a factory organized to furnish indigent blind men with employment. When we first filed the articles of incorporation in 1899 we were not sure at that time but that we might make it a home as well as a workshop, but after nearly four years' experience in this line of work all of our board of directors and myself have concluded that we can do more good and get better results by giving this class of unfortunates steady employment, paying them wages according to the quantity and quality of their work so as to enable them to support themselves either at their homes or boarding places. We hope in this way to place our workmen as nearly as possible on an equality with those who are not deprived of their sight.

“All of our workmen are engaged in the manufacture of brooms. We have been unable so far to find any other line of industry which they can work at nearly as successfully as they can at the making of brooms. During the year ending July 1, 1903, we completed and sold nearly 40,000 brooms. For this work we paid in wages to blind men \$2,500. Our books show a deficit of only \$62. We consider this a good showing, taking into consideration that since our beginning we have only received in contributions about \$3,500, out of which we have paid for our building and machinery, the ground being donated, which only leaves us a very small amount for our working capital.

“We now have only 16 men on our payroll. They earn from \$4 to \$8 a week. We find ready sale for our output and we are always behind with orders. It has been our intention since the beginning to make this institution self-supporting, and we firmly

believe that we can after we receive a sufficient amount of funds with which to operate our factory with a much larger force of men. We have applications from all parts of the State which we cannot take on account of the lack of funds. We are slowly but gradually increasing our capacity, and we are confident that we are building a good and substantial foundation for a model institution of its kind.

“ * * * In regard to age limit, I do not think it best to admit men over 50 years of age.”

(3) The following account of the workshop situated at South Boston is given by Mr. Anagnos, superintendent of the Perkins Institution and Massachusetts School for the Blind:

“This shop has neither organic nor any other connection whatsoever with the school, being an entirely separate establishment. Its work is purely industrial or mechanical and is carried on in a suitable building for the sole purpose of providing profitable employment for a number of blind persons whose character is blameless and who are both able and eager to earn their living through their own exertions.

“The transference of our salesroom and office to No. 383 Boylston street has proved decidedly beneficial to this department. Since this change of location took place there has been a steady increase in the business of the shop, and the time of all persons therein employed has been fully occupied. The ledger has been closed with a balance of \$1,001 in favor of the department.

“Constant efforts have been put forth to facilitate the sale of useful and fancy articles made by blind women, most of whom are graduates of the school and live in their own homes.”

VIII. COMBINATION OF FOREGOING PLANS.

(1) The Pennsylvania Working Home for Blind Men, which is located in Philadelphia and is under the superintendency of Mr. H. L. Hall, himself a blind man, is primarily a combined manufacturing establishment and industrial home, but it also in certain cases may become an industrial training school, or even a home simply. The blind men whom it employs may either reside within the building or may board outside. In the case of the former a nominal charge of \$2.25 per week is made, which is deducted from their monthly pay, while in the case of the latter, it is believed, payment is made each week. But a blind man who has not previously learned a trade may be received and instructed, and Mr. Hall laughs at the notion that three years should be given simply to teaching a man his trade, as he claims that by first putting him at the simplest part of any trade, e. g., sorting broomcorn and keeping him at that work, he can begin to earn something within three weeks. Moreover, when a man has once been received into the establishment and continues to conduct himself properly, he is not discharged on account of sickness or senility, there being in connection with this establishment what Mr. Hall calls the retreat and into which those who become unable to work are retired. In this retreat men are charged nothing for board, neither are they required to work at all, but for such work as they may be able and may choose to do they receive half pay, this money being given them without any deductions for their necessary living expenses.

The principal trade now followed is that of broom making, although the cane seating of chairs and the weaving of rag carpet are followed to some extent.

This home is supposed to receive a biennial appropriation of \$35,000 from the State of Pennsylvania and an annual donation of \$5,000 from the city of Philadelphia.

The establishment is run at a heavy loss, and it is not therefore able to receive all the worthy blind men who apply for admission, such men being placed upon the waiting list. When visited by your Commissioners the home was aiding about 130 men, although it is believed that the waiting list was even somewhat greater than that number. Mr. Hall's last biennial report shows that for the preceding two years there was a deficit of \$55,800.24 in order to aid an average of 121 blind men, 47 of whom lived within and 74 without the building. This gives an annual deficit of about \$230.78 for each blind person. To account for this deficit Mr. Hall says, among other things, that he pays about forty-five cents a dozen more for his brooms than sighted workmen generally receive, while he is compelled also to employ some sighted aid, all the items of cost being shown in his report. For the coming two years the State will be asked for an appropriation of \$60,000 in order that those, or a part of those who are upon the waiting list, may be given employment. Indeed, Mr. Hall admits that it costs as much to furnish his men with work as to maintain them in idleness.

(2) The Working Home for Blind Women in the city of Philadelphia, which is a private charity, maintains about 40 working women and 20 who have become too old to work, no one being received who is not in good health or who is above 45 years of age. The annual cost of this home is about \$12,500, i. e., about \$200 an inmate, thus approximating to Mr. Hall's deficit.

(3) The Illinois Industrial Home for the Blind, situated in the city of Chicago, was not personally visited by any member

of your Commission, the following account being gleaned from its report:

“This institution is designed to furnish such employment to the blind men and women of the State as will enable them to be self-supporting and self-respecting by the reason of their ability to thus maintain themselves. It was established in 1894 by the State. It provides work for 70 inmates, male and female, at an annual per capita cost of about \$400. Twelve workmen live outside and the rest live in the home. The principal industry pursued is the making of brooms. Some do piecework, others are paid by the day. The maximum week wages for blind inmates is \$1 per day, the minimum 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ cents per day. Thirty seeing people are employed in the institution. Ready sale for all articles manufactured is found.” The superintendent’s idea, as a result of his experience, would be to establish workshops for the blind, not homes.

(4) Wisconsin also has just undertaken a measure for the aid of the adult blind of that State which, as the plans are not yet fully perfected, will be best explained by the law, which is herewith subjoined.

“An act to provide the means of self-support to adult blind artisans and the means of instruction to those desiring to become artisans, and to appropriate money therefor.

“Preamble.—Whereas, there are many adult blind residents of this State who have learned trades, either at the State School for the Blind or elsewhere, but who are greatly embarrassed by reason of their infirmity in securing employment and who find themselves quite unable to compete successfully with those having sight, who are engaged in the same trades; and whereas, the State School for the Blind is not, and while it remains a school cannot, be adapted to furnish those adult artisans with proper

facilities to pursue their respective vocations without serious injury to the school; and whereas, it is believed that if a place and some suitable appliances were furnished them, they could so compete and become self-supporting.

“To the end, therefore, that such reasonable aid may be extended to such persons as will enable them successfully to pursue their several vocations,

“The People of The State of Wisconsin, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

“Section 1. Duty of board of control; material and tools.—The State Board of Control is hereby authorized and directed, subject to the approval of the Governor, to procure a building, by lease or otherwise, or suitable apartments in some building situated in the city of Milwaukee, in which any blind citizen of this State having learned a trade may, if practicable, pursue his vocation on his own account and receive for his own use the whole of the proceeds of his labor. Such building or apartments shall be heated and lighted under the direction of the Board of Control at the expense of the State. As a general rule it is expected that artisans availing themselves of the privileges of this act will furnish their own materials and the tools required in their employment, but in cases of necessity the board may assist such workmen by furnishing for their use a limited amount of such tools.

“Section 2. Instruction.—The said board may also, in its discretion, provide means of instruction in such building or apartments to any adult blind resident of the State who desires to learn a trade, to enable such person to avail himself of the privileges and benefits conferred by this act.

“Section 3. Superintendent; compensation.—Said board is authorized to employ some person to have charge and superintendence of such building or apartments who shall direct what portion thereof shall be used by each person desiring to use the same. Said superintendent shall be paid a compensation to be fixed by the said board.

“Section 4. Appropriation.—There is hereby appropriated out of any moneys in the State Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to be expended by the Board of Control in executing the requirements of this act during the current calendar year, and a further sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for such expenses during the year 1904. The expenditures under this act shall not exceed the sum herein appropriated unless the amount shall be increased pursuant to the provisions of section 563 of the Statutes of 1898.

“Section 5. This act shall take effect and be enforced from and after its passage and publication.

“Approved May 22, 1903.”

(5) After much consideration of the matter the State of Michigan last winter provided a plan for aiding the adult blind, which includes the establishment of an industrial home, the providing of free instruction and training, the establishment of an information and employment bureau, together with a circulating library. It also provides for the furnishing of a suitable outfit of machinery, tools, etc., for those who may need them in order to follow the trades which they have learned.

The general government of this institution is to be vested in a board of three trustees, exclusive of the Governor, who is a member *ex officio*, which board is to be called “Board of Trustees for the Blind.” This board is appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, the full term of office of the members being six years; and it is also provided that one member of the board shall always be a blind man. No salary is paid, but its members are allowed their traveling and other necessary expenses.

The duties of the board are thus defined by law: “Said board of trustees shall have the power, and it shall be their duty, so to provide, equip and control the said institution as to carry into

effect all the intents and purposes of this act; and to this end shall establish, open and regulate an industrial or polytechnic school and factory, a working home, and an employment and information bureau and circulating library, for the benefit of adult blind persons of good moral character, together with such other departments as in their judgment may seem wise and judicious and best calculated to promote the objects and the efficiency of said institution."

It is still further provided that persons of good moral character may be received into this institution between the ages of 18 and 60, and also, at the discretion of the board, those over 60; while with the consent of the Board of Control of the Michigan School for the Blind they may also be admitted between the ages of 14 and 18 years. It is also provided that the period of instruction in any particular case shall not exceed three years, the State meanwhile defraying all necessary expenses.

For the accomplishment of these purposes the State has appropriated the sum of \$85,000 for the first year and \$25,000 for the second year of the institution.

The act making these provisions is entitled: "An act to establish the Michigan Employment Institution for the Blind and provide for its management, to make an appropriation therefor, and to provide for a tax to meet the same," but as it is voluminous, consisting of fifteen sections, and as the details of this institution are not yet arranged, it is believed that the above synopsis will prove to be a sufficiently detailed account.

GENERALITY OF MOVEMENT TO AID THE ADULT BLIND.

If each of the provisions which have been previously mentioned be examined with reference to locality of inception or of operation, as the case may be, it will appear that the move-

ment to aid the adult blind of the United States in some manner is very general among the people and States of the Union. This fact will be more evident from the provisions made by each State if examined separately.

(1) California has an *industrial home* containing considerably more than 100 adult blind persons.

(2) Connecticut has the largest, if not the only, *industrial training school* in the United States.

(3) From this training school the Columbia Polytechnic Institute of Washington, D. C., originated; and it may also be noticed in passing that there is a *home* for the blind in Washington which your Commissioners did not visit because it is small and possesses no industrial features of importance.

(4) Illinois has, by legislative enactment, founded a combined *home and shop* in the city of Chicago.

(5) Indiana has a true *workshop* incorporated as an industrial home, the home feature having been abandoned.

(6) The State of Iowa in 1892 founded an *industrial home* for both sexes, but being unwise in the selection of a small rural town as a site, and unfortunate in its management, it failed to retain the confidence of the people, the Legislature refused to appropriate the necessary funds and the institution has been compelled to suspend operations for the present, though the State still owns the property.

(7) It has also come to the knowledge of your Commissioners that a movement has been started in the State of Maine to found an "*Industrial Home and School for the Blind*," and the Legislature will at its next session be asked to appropriate a sum of money for its establishment. But as the plan is only in embryo, no definite information regarding it can be given.

(8) In Massachusetts a *workshop* for those of the adult blind who can avail themselves of its privileges is maintained under the control of the Massachusetts school. In addition to this, the movement for the instruction of the adult blind in their homes was initiated in this State; and in the last place, the State created last summer a commission similar to that which was created by your honorable body, the report of which commission has just been published.

(9) The State of Michigan appropriated last year the sum of \$110,000 for the purpose of aiding the adult blind, although the institution which is to be founded is not yet in operation.

(10) In New Jersey there is a *home* containing about 50 women under the direction of the Sisters of Charity.

(11) The city of New York has for a long time pensioned most of its adult blind citizens, in addition to which private philanthropy has founded no less than four *homes*; but outside of the city the first movement to better the condition of the adult blind seems to have been made by the appointment of your Commissioners.

(12) To the State of Pennsylvania belongs the oldest and best known of all the employment agencies for the adult blind in this country, the Pennsylvania *Working Home* for Blind Men, and private philanthropy has founded a large institution for the maintenance of blind women.

(13) Last of all, the State of Wisconsin has appropriated money for an experimental *training school* and *workshop* for the adult blind.

Thus it will appear that, excluding the State of New York, a movement to ameliorate the condition of the adult blind has been felt in eleven States, as well as in the District of Columbia;

and there can be little doubt that the impulse which has made itself apparent in these States is silently at work and will shortly exhibit itself in many others.

PROVISIONS FOR THE ADULT BLIND IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

No member of your Commission felt himself warranted in attempting a personal visitation of any of the establishments for the adult blind in Europe, although it is believed that some of these have reached a degree of efficiency higher than that which has been attained by corresponding institutions in the United States. Moreover, as the method of correspondence is always slow and unsatisfactory, requiring usually four or five letters of inquiry before the exact information desired can be obtained, your Commissioners found it advisable to confine their inquiries to Great Britain; and even here the letters and reports which have been received are not generally of such a character as would enable a person to form an accurate estimate of the true status of each institution with reference to the work of your Commission.

The most successful and most celebrated of all of the industrial institutions for the adult blind in the British empire is undoubtedly that which is situated in Glasgow, Scotland, and as the head of that institution recently visited the United States, it was the good fortune of one of your Commissioners to obtain a personal interview with him, from which he was able to form a very accurate notion as to the *modus operandi* of the establishment.

The Royal Glasgow Asylum for the Blind, under the superintendency of Mr. Thomas Stoddart, may be said to comprise three departments, the first being a common school, the second

an industrial training school and the third a manufacturing establishment.

In the school the children are generally kept until the age of 16, although in a few cases this period is extended for one or two years. The number of pupils in attendance is usually about 80. After leaving school the pupil generally enters the second department, and he is there apprenticed to learn the trade which he intends to follow, the rules being the same as those which the trade unions prescribe for sighted persons. This department trains also those who lose their sight in adult life, and many such receive training.

As the three departments of this institution are for the adult blind of both sexes, the trades taught in this department are some for men, some for women and some for both; and these trades, which are nine or ten in number, omitting certain special cases, are the following:

(1) Basket making, which is practiced by men only.

(2) Mat weaving of many kinds, being practiced exclusively by men.

(3) Brush making, a trade for men only. In this connection Mr. Stoddart said that they had been able to secure contracts for furnishing such brushes or brooms as are employed in sweeping the streets of Glasgow or of other cities. It must, however, be borne in mind that broom making, as practiced in this country, cannot be followed in Glasgow, since it would be necessary to import, at great expense, all the corn required.

(4) Cane seating of chairs, a trade which is followed mostly, if not entirely, by women; and this is not peculiar to Glasgow.

(5) Mattress making, or as the report says, "bedding," a trade using the combined labor of men and women.

(6) Wire work, a trade which is followed by men only.

(7) Some kinds of carpentering are practiced by a few of the men, and one of them is even running a buzz-saw. For this Mr. Stoddart has been told that he was wicked, although he says that he does not think the man is in the slightest danger. They also make armorial shields for halls, and do much work which is thought to require sight.

(8) The cordage trade, which employs both sexes, is one of considerable extent.

(9) The sacking trade, involving various kinds of cloth work, is carried on by women only.

(10) Knitting, fancy work and general sewing are also learned by many of the girls; and Mr. Stoddart says that the most serviceable occupation which he has yet found for women is the use of the sewing machine. He always runs these machines by some power other than foot in order that the operator may be able to give her whole attention to guiding her work, and also because he thinks the blind women are physically weak and does not wish to weary them.

In the third, or manufacturing department, work is furnished to those blind persons who, having finished their industrial training, choose to continue their connection with the institution. This department generally employs about 200 blind persons, all of whom reside without the institution; and even in the other departments pupils are not only allowed but are compelled to live outside when it is possible for them to do so. The workmen are paid by the piece, and there is a system of grading according to the excellency of their work. For those of the first grade a minimum wage of 18 shillings per week is fixed; i. e., that wage is made up to them if they cannot earn it, while a very few have earned as much as 2 pounds per week.

All of the workers belong to a mutual benefit association, to which they pay 1 shilling per week, and which is managed entirely by themselves. Each member receives 1 pound per week during sickness, or as a pension when he is disabled by age; and in case of death 2 pounds are to be paid toward his funeral expenses. This society also sends visitors to investigate the condition of those blind of Glasgow who are not connected with the institution and to aid them with work.

In order to increase the sale of their manufactured goods Mr. Stoddart employs the services of traveling agents, and he also keeps on hand certain goods not made by the blind but of a character connecting them with such goods. Thus, to sell his bedding, he keeps bedsteads; and because he sells clotheslines, he keeps clothespins, etc.

While Mr. Stoddart admits that a shop maintaining one, or at the most two, trades, could be more easily managed than that which he controls, he does not agree with Mr. Hall of Philadelphia in thinking that it is advisable to thus restrict the industries for the blind. He says that whatever may be the conditions elsewhere, he is certain that he could not sell all the goods which his shop would turn out were his people confined to the pursuit of one or two trades only.

Mr. Stoddart's experience goes far toward answering the question as to the ability of those blind persons who lose their sight in middle life to learn and successfully follow any trade. For, owing to the conditions which prevail in Glasgow, there being many dangerous occupations among the sighted, e. g., the manufacture of dynamite, etc., many men have their eyes destroyed long after they have become adults. Hence many such persons have entered the training department, and he says that it has

generally been found possible to teach them some one or more of the trades. This fact affords also another argument for a variety of pursuits, since many of those who enter the training department under the circumstances which have just been explained have at some period of life followed an occupation which is the same as or kindred to that which they now decide to adopt.

Mr. Stoddart thinks a city to be the best place for his or a similar establishment, since in a small community the colonization of a considerable number of adult blind persons whose support was not guaranteed from without would probably awaken a fear that many of them might ultimately become a public charge.

It may be added that the number of sighted persons employed in the shop is about ten per cent., and that the workshops are self-supporting.

In addition to this personal interview your Commissioners have also corresponded with and received letters or reports from 23 industrial and other institutions, list of which is given in Appendix E, page 65 of this report.

These letters and reports, however, while containing much valuable information which your Commissioners could supply to their successors, should they be appointed, are not of such a character as would enable a person in most cases to say what is the precise status of each institution with reference to the work of your Commission. It appears, however, that the larger of these institutions are conducted very much upon the plan of that which is situated at Glasgow, while most of the smaller are industrial training schools or workshops, and also that in Great Britain much more attention is given to the industrial than to the intellectual training of the blind.

There are also a few points upon which the writers of the letters are tolerably well agreed. The first is that, except for women, the adult blind should be furnished with workshops where they can work as "outmates" and not with industrial homes. Another point is that they should be paid trade-union wages, although it appears from the reports that it is necessary in many cases to supplement these by methods which need not be described here. The trades taught are also much the same in each, viz, brush making, basket making, cane seating of chairs and mattress making, which they call "bedding"; but there is, as might be expected, considerable diversity of opinion among these writers as to what trade or trades are best.

Besides the letters and reports to which reference has just been made, those who may be interested in the industrial training of the blind would do well to examine Armitage's "Education and Employment of the Blind" (1886); "Report of the Conference on Matters Relating to the Blind," held at Westminster in April, 1902; and Henry J. Wilson's pamphlet, entitled "Information with Regard to Institutions, Societies and Classes for the Blind in England and Wales" (1896), all of which will furnish much valuable information.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

Although your Commission has not been charged with the duty of investigating the causes of blindness, still it is evident from the work done elsewhere, especially in Great Britain by the Society for the Prevention of Blindness, that much can be done, particularly among young children, to prevent the loss of sight. The State has already taken cognizance of the importance of this fact by the passage of a law known as chapter 41 of the Laws

of 1890, entitled "An act for the prevention of blindness." The first two sections of this law, giving in brief the provisions of the act, are printed in full.

"Section 1. Should any midwife or nurse, having charge of an infant in this State, notice that one or both eyes of such infant are inflamed or reddened at any time within two weeks after its birth it shall be the duty of such midwife or nurse, so having charge of such infant, to report the fact in writing, within six hours, to the health officer, or some legally qualified practitioner of medicine, of the city, town or district in which the parents of the infant reside.

"§ 2. Any failure to comply with the provisions of this act shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$100, or imprisonment not to exceed six months, or both."

Your Commission is assured that if work of this character were carried out more generally in conjunction with existing authorities sight might be saved in the case of many children where otherwise blindness inevitably results.

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS.

Although time did not permit your Commissioners to complete their investigations as to the condition of the adult blind of the State along the lines indicated, nevertheless the following general statements will, they believe, only be confirmed by more extended examination:

(1) The blind of the State are in general very poor, and they usually have as their nearest relatives persons who are not in good financial circumstances.

(2) At least 65 per cent. of them are too old to acquire and to follow any industrial occupation, while another and unknown proportion of them are physically or mentally unsound.

(3) In the case of many who are sound, long enforced idleness has destroyed the desire to work, so that it would require time to overcome the indolence to which they have become habituated.

(4) Most of the blind, especially among the women, do not travel far alone, and hence they must reside near their work or it must be carried to them.

(5) The adult blind of the Greater New York are *apparently* better situated than those of the rest of the State, and they do not therefore evince any particular desire for State assistance. But it is not intended here to assert that a more thorough investigation might not show these *seemingly* favorable conditions to be in *reality* no more advantageous than those which prevail in other localities.

(6) As a result of a personal visitation of nearly 1,000 of the blind of the State and of correspondence with the superintendents of the poor the Commission find that many of the blind, especially of the women, are for the most part comfortably cared for in the homes either of relatives or of friends. It would seem unwise under such conditions to cultivate the "institutional habit" by segregating those thus situated in homes especially provided for the blind.

(7) Extended experience in Great Britain and the United States seems to indicate that "workshops," for adult blind men at least who are of working age, are generally far more successful than are "industrial homes."

(8) The experience of all engaged in the education of the blind, and the facts gathered by your Commission in its work, prove conclusively that a few of the adult blind, even under existing conditions, become wholly or partially self-supporting.

(9) The experience of very many blind men who have endeavored to follow the trades learned at some school for the blind proves that, while the product of their labor would probably be of sufficient value to afford them a comfortable support, the time consumed in selling this product prevents them in reality from gaining such support.

(10) Your Commission believe that adults and children should not be trained in the same institution or under the same management. Some form of manual training for boys should take the place of the industrial training now conducted in schools for the young blind.

(11) Your Commission find that all attempts to combine industry and charity in the same establishment and under the same management have proved in every instance to be at best *financial* failures, and in its judgment such must continue to be the case since by this combination a premium is put upon idleness by giving the most charity to the least industrious person.

(12) It is generally recognized by social economists that, while the giving of pensions is the simplest method of aiding those who seem to require financial assistance, it is in a very large number of instances not only an unwise method but is demoralizing in its effect upon the recipients.

(13) With all the deductions that have been previously made, there are still very many adult blind men and women who are capable of being taught and of following some industrial trade for whom suitable provisions should be made.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

First.—We recommend that the work of personal visitation begun by this Commission shall be carried on and completed for the blind of the entire State.

Second.—We recommend that provision be made for the industrial training of the blind over 21 years of age—and to that end that in the city of Buffalo there be established tentatively, in a rented building, one industrial training school or “school-shop,” and that as soon as possible manual training replace the industries now followed in the State School for the Blind.

Third.—We recommend such modification of existing laws as will enable the blind to sell their products to State and municipal institutions.

Fourth.—We further recommend that measures shall be taken to determine the causes of existing blindness, and that such preventive measures be employed as will tend to lessen future blindness in the State.

Fifth.—To carry out the foregoing recommendations we finally recommend that there shall be established a permanent Commission; and in accord with the provisions of the act by which your Commission was appointed we herewith subjoin the draft of a bill embodying the recommendations contained in this report.

That the proposed legislation is in accord with a very general movement in Great Britain and the United States is evidenced, first, by the appointment in 1885 by the English government of “The Royal Commission on the Blind, Deaf and Dumb,” which did not issue its report until 1889; second, by the creation by the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut in 1893 of a similar permanent commission known as the “State Board of Education for the Blind;” and third, by the fact that the Massachusetts Commission to Investigate the Condition of the Adult Blind of that State, appointed in 1903, has just presented the draft of a bill which provides for the establishment of a permanent “Board for the Improvement of the Condition of the Adult Blind in Massachusetts.”

In conclusion we call attention to the appendices which form a part of this report, and which contain various information in statistical and tabulated form. By reference to the financial statement in Appendix F it will appear that less than one-half of the moneys appropriated for their work has been expended by your Commissioners.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

F. PARK LEWIS,

President.

LEWIS BUFFETT CARLL,

Vice-President.

O. H. BURRITT,

Secretary.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSION,

BATAVIA, N. Y., *February 1, 1904.*

DRAFT OF PROPOSED BILL.

An act to provide for the appointment of a permanent Commission to supervise, direct and control the educational and industrial interests of the adult blind of the State of New York, and to make appropriations to meet the expenses of such Commission.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Within thirty days after the passage of this act, the Governor shall appoint a permanent Commission of three persons, which shall be known as the Commission for the Improvement of the Condition of the Adult Blind in the State of New York.

§ 2. The term of office of the Commissioners shall be three years, but of the first Commission appointed the term of one member shall expire at the end of one year and that of another at the end of two years. At the conclusion of the term of each his successor shall be appointed for a full term of three years.

§ 3. This Commission shall, as soon as possible after its appointment, meet and determine by lot the length of term of service of each Commissioner, as specified in section 2 of this act.

§ 4. The Commission shall, at its first meeting, elect one of its members as president, who shall preside at its meetings, and who shall have power to call meetings when it shall be deemed advisable.

§ 5. The members of said Commission shall serve without compensation, but they shall be allowed reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their several duties as Commissioners, same to be audited by the Comptroller and paid by the Treasurer.

§ 6. It shall be the duty of this Commission to prepare and to maintain by personal visitation, correspondence or such other means as may seem advisable, a complete record of the adult blind in the State of New York, which record shall describe the

condition, cause of blindness, capacity for educational and industrial training of each, together with such other facts as may seem to the Commission to be of value.

§ 7. It shall be the duty of the Commission to make inquiries concerning the causes of blindness, to learn what proportion of these cases are preventable and to inaugurate such preventive measures for the State of New York as may seem wise.

§ 8. The Commission may aid those of the adult blind, whom they consider worthy, in finding employment and may develop industry in their homes, or supply supplemental educational opportunities to those for whom such aid would be especially helpful. In furtherance thereof they may furnish material, tools or such other assistance as may seem necessary to an amount not exceeding \$200 to any one individual, and may establish an exchange for the marketing of the products of their labor.

§ 9. The Commission shall, with the approval of the Governor, establish one or more industrial training or "shop-schools," and be empowered to equip and maintain the same, to pay to employees suitable wages and establish agencies for the sale and distribution of the products thereof.

§ 10. The Commission shall make an annual report of its proceedings to the Governor and the Legislature, and may make such recommendations, in the interest of the blind, as may be necessary.

§ 11. For the year ending December 31, 1904, in addition to the unexpended balance appropriated by chapter 576, Laws of 1903, the sum of \$8,500, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated to carry out the work of the commission.

§ 12. This act shall take effect immediately.

APPENDIX A.

STATISTICAL TABLES BASED UPON THE UNITED STATES CENSUS OF 1900.

I.

TABLE OF THE BLIND OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK SHOWING SEX, AGE, TOTALS AND PERCENTAGE BY DECADES.

Age.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Percentage.
0- 10	53	62	135	2.24
10- 21	250	199	449	7.47
21- 30	219	140	359	5.97
30- 40	257	173	430	7.15
40- 50	353	233	586	9.75
50- 60	494	338	832	13.84
60- 70	574	443	1017	16.92
70- 80	651	565	1216	20.23
80- 90	374	410	784	13.04
90-100	63	105	168	2.79
100	2	6	8	.13
Unknown	5	19	24	.39
	<u>3,315</u>	<u>2,693</u>	<u>6,008</u>	<u>100.00</u>

II.

TABLE SHOWING THE BLIND OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK OF SCHOOL AGE (UNDER 21), WORKING AGE (21-50), POSSIBLE WORKING AGE (50-60) AND NON-WORKING AGE (OVER 60).

Age.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Percentage.
Under 21	323	261	584	9.72
21-50	829	546	1,375	22.88
50-60	494	338	832	13.84
Over 60	1,664	1,529	3,193	53.14
Unknown	5	19	24	.39
	<u>3,315</u>	<u>2,693</u>	<u>6,008</u>	<u>100.00</u>

III.

TABLE SHOWING THE BLIND OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK WHO HAVE ADDITIONAL SENSE DEFECTS.

	Male.	Female.	Total.	Percentage.
Blind and deaf	139	130	269	4.47
Blind, deaf and dumb..	19	9	28	.46
	<u>158</u>	<u>139</u>	<u>297</u>	<u>4.93</u>

TABLES SHOWING THE BLIND OF SCHOOL AGE (UNDER 21), WORKING AGE (21-50), POSSIBLE WORKING AGE (50-60), AND NON-WORKING AGE (OVER 60), OF THE CITIES OF THE FIRST CLASS, SEPARATELY AND COMBINED.

I. *City of New York.*

Age.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Percentage.
Under 21	145	141	286	....
21-50	318	210	528	....
50-60	154	114	268	....
Over 60	279	379	658	....
Unknown	4	2	6	....
	<u>900</u>	<u>846</u>	<u>1,746</u>	<u>29.06</u>

II. *Buffalo.*

Age.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Percentage.
Under 21	14	17	31	....
21-50	44	14	58	....
50-60	10	14	24	....
Over 60	51	50	101	....
Unknown	1	1	2	....
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	120	96	216	3.59
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

III. *Cities of the First Class.*

Age.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Percentage.
Under 21	159	158	317	....
21-50	362	224	586	....
50-60	164	128	292	....
Over 60	330	429	759	....
Unknown	5	3	8	....
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,020	942	1,962	32.65
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

TABLES SHOWING THE BLIND OF SCHOOL AGE (UNDER 21), WORKING AGE (21-50), POSSIBLE WORKING AGE (50-60), AND NON-WORKING AGE (OVER 60), OF THE CITIES OF THE SECOND CLASS, SEPARATELY AND COMBINED.

I. *Albany.*

Age.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Percentage.
Under 21	6	3	9	....
21-50	10	13	23	....
50-60	6	4	10	....
Over 60	15	20	35	....
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	37	40	77	1.28
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

II. *Rochester.*

Age.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Percentage.
Under 21	12	2	14	....
21-50	18	7	25	....
50-60	16	4	20	....
Over 60	33	31	64	....
	<hr/> 79	<hr/> 44	<hr/> 123	<hr/> 2.04
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

III. *Syracuse.*

Age.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Percentage.
Under 21	2	7	9	....
21-50	18	11	29	....
50-60	7	5	12	....
Over 60	21	25	46	....
	<hr/> 48	<hr/> 48	<hr/> 96	<hr/> 1.59
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

IV. *Troy.*

Age.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Percentage.
Under 21.....	4	1	5	.....
21-50	9	6	15	.....
50-60	6	3	9	.....
Over 60	18	13	31	.....
	<hr/> 37	<hr/> 23	<hr/> 60	<hr/> .99
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

V. *Utica.*

Age.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Percentage.
Under 21.....	4	4	8	.....
21-50	6	2	8	.....
50-60	5	2	7	.....
Over 60	13	10	23	.....
Unknown .....	.....	1	1	.....
	<hr/> 28	<hr/> 19	<hr/> 47	<hr/> .78
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

VI. *Cities of the Second Class.*

Age.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Percentage.
Under 21	28	17	45	.....
21-50	61	39	100	.....
50-60	40	18	58	.....
Over 60	100	99	199	.....
Unknown		1	1	.....
	229	174	403	6.70

TABLE SHOWING THE BLIND OF THE CITIES OF THE FIRST AND SECOND CLASSES COMBINED.

	Male.	Female.	Total.	Percentage.
New York.....	900	846	1,746	29.06
Buffalo	120	96	216	3.59
Albany	37	40	77	1.28
Rochester	79	44	123	2.04
Syracuse	48	48	96	1.59
Troy	37	23	60	.99
Utica	28	19	47	.78
	1,249	1,116	2,365	39.33

OBSERVATIONS REGARDING CENSUS LIST.

While the census list was of great value and proved indispensable to the work of your Commissioners, still it would appear that by the exercise of a little more care on the part of the enumerators the returns might be made more trustworthy. In examining this list it was incidentally discovered that 253 names, or 4 per cent. of the whole number, had been altogether omitted. Again, out of 114 blind persons found in the almshouses of the

State, 51, or nearly 45 per cent., were not found on the census list; and finally, in the personal visitation of 960 persons the names of 88 individuals, or about 6 per cent. of the whole number, could not be found on the census roll, while the names of 36 persons, or $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. of the whole, were erroneously reported blind.

APPENDIX B.

STATISTICAL TABLES BASED UPON THE PENSION LIST OF 1903 OF NEW YORK CITY.

I.

TABLE OF THE BLIND PENSIONERS OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
SHOWING SEX, AGE, TOTALS AND PERCENTAGE BY DECADES.

Age.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Percentage.
21-30	82	47	129	12.87
30-40	119	75	194	19.36
40-50	119	68	187	18.66
50-60	92	76	168	16.76
60-70	101	82	183	18.76
70-80	49	55	104	10.37
80-90	17	17	34	3.39
90-100	1	2	3	.29
	580	422	1,002	100.00

II.

TABLE OF THE BLIND PENSIONERS OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK OF
WORKING AGE (21-50), POSSIBLE WORKING AGE (50-60) AND
NON-WORKING AGE (OVER 60).

Age.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Percentage.
21-50	320	190	510	50.89
50-60	92	76	168	16.76
Over 60.....	168	156	324	32.33
	580	422	1,002	100.00

APPENDIX C.

MISCELLANEOUS STATISTICS REGARDING THE 960 BLIND, COMPILED FROM THE RETURNS OF THE VISITORS.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Cases investigated	528	432	960
Not on census list of 1900.....	42	46	88
Dead	117	101	218
Not located	27	23	50
Removed from State	10	5	15
Erroneously reported blind.....	23	13	36
Recovered sight	4	5	9
Lost sight since census enumera- tion	9	3	12
Totally blind	205	169	374
Partially blind	126	93	219
Unknown	30	9	39
Under 21.....	23	24	47
Inmates of charitable institutions	28	42	70
Inmates of almshouses and former pupils in schools for the blind..	1	2	3
Possible candidates (21-50 years) for an industrial institution...	54	16	70
Possible candidates (50-60 years) for an industrial institution...	25	6	31
Possible candidates for a home...	28	22	50
Self-supporting	57	4	61
Contributing to support.....	70	64	134

APPENDIX D.

STATISTICAL TABLES REGARDING THE BLIND IN THE ALMSHOUSES OF THE STATE, THE CITY OF NEW YORK EXCEPTED.

I.

TABLE SHOWING BY SEXES THE NUMBER OF BLIND INMATES IN
EACH OF THE ALMSHOUSES OF THE STATE.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Albany	2	2	4
Allegany			
Broome	1		1
Cattaraugus			
Cayuga		No data.	
Chautauqua	3	1	4
Chemung	1	1	2
Chenango		No data.	
Clinton	1	2	3
Columbia		No data.	
Cortland		1	1
Delaware	1	3	4
Dutchess			
Erie	3	3	6
Essex			
Franklin			
Fulton		1	1
Genesee		1	1
Greene	1	2	3

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Hamilton			
Herkimer	1		1
Jefferson	3	5	8
Lewis	1		1
Livingston	5	1	6
Madison		No data.	
Monroe	7	1	8
Montgomery		3	3
Nassau	2		2
Niagara		1	1
Oneida	4	2	6
Onondaga	3	3	6
Ontario	1	1	2
Orange	6	1	7
Orleans	4	1	5
Oswego		No data.	
Otsego		No data.	
Putnam	1		1
Rensselaer	2	4	6
Rockland		2	2
St. Lawrence	2	2	4
Saratoga	1		1
Schenectady		1	1
Schoharie	2	1	3
Schuyler			
Seneca			
Steuben	2	1	3
Suffolk	6	1	7
Sullivan		1	1

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Tioga .....	.....	.....	.....
Tompkins	1	1	2
Ulster .....	.....	.....	.....
Warren	2	.....	2
Washington .....	.....	No data.	.....
Wayne	1	1	2
Westchester .....	.....	No data.	.....
Wyoming	1	.....	1
Yates .....	.....	.....	.....
	<hr/> 71	<hr/> 51	<hr/> 122
Percentage	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> 2.03

II.

TABLE OF THE BLIND IN THE ALMSHOUSES OF THE STATE SHOWING
SEX, AGE, TOTALS AND PERCENTAGE BY DECADES.

Age.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Percentage.
0-10	1	.....	1	.....
10-21	1	.....	1	.....
21-30	3	1	4	.....
30-40	4	1	5	.....
40-50	7	6	13	.....
50-60	13	5	18	.....
60-70	13	7	20	.....
70-80	18	16	34	.....
80-90	4	4	8	.....
90-100	1	3	4	.....
Unknown	6	8	14	.....
	<hr/> 71	<hr/> 51	<hr/> 122	<hr/> 2.03

III.

INSTITUTIONS FOR THE ADULT BLIND IN GREAT BRITAIN FROM WHICH
LETTERS OR REPORTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY THE COMMISSION.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Totally blind	37	32	69
Partially blind	11	12	23
Unknown	12	11	23
Former pupils in schools for blind.	6	6	12
Assist with work of almshouse....	7	4	11
Confirmed drunkards.....	5	.....	5
Operation might improve sight...	1	3	4
Health good	37	15	52
Became blind since census enu- meration of 1900.....	2	2	4
Possible candidates for industrial institution	7	2	9

APPENDIX E.

INFORMATION REGARDING INSTITUTIONS FOR THE ADULT BLIND IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IN THE UNITED STATES.

I.

INSTITUTIONS FOR THE ADULT BLIND IN GREAT BRITAIN FROM
WHICH LETTERS OR REPORTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY THE
COMMISSION.

The General Institution for the Blind, Edgbaston, Birmingham,
England.

Bradford Incorporated Institution for the Blind, Bradford,
Yorkshire, England.

Birkenhead Society for the Blind, Birkenhead, England.

The Bristol Asylum or School of Industry for the Blind, Bris-
tol, England.

Carlisle Home and Workshop for the Blind, Carlisle, England.

Cheltenham and Gloucestershire Society for the Blind, Chelten-
ham, England.

West of England Institution for the Instruction and Employ-
ment of the Blind, Exeter, England.

United Institution for the Blind and Deaf and Dumb, Leeds,
England.

The Leicester Association for Promoting the General Welfare
of the Blind, Leicester, England.

British and Foreign Blind Association, London, England.

Royal Normal College and Academy of Music for the Blind,
Upper Norwood, London, England.

Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Manchester, England.

Newcastle, Gateshead and District Workshops for the Adult
Blind, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England.

Asylum and School for the Indigent Blind, Norwich, England.

South Devon and Cornwall Institution and School for the
Blind, Plymouth, England.

Institute for the Blind and the Deaf and Dumb, Stockport,
England.

Yorkshire School for the Blind, York, England.

Association for the Employment of the Industrious Blind, Bel-
fast, Ireland.

Royal Blind Asylum and School, Edinburgh, Scotland.

Dundee Institution for the Blind, Dundee, Scotland.

Royal Glasgow Asylum for the Blind, Glasgow, Scotland.

Cardiff Institute for the Blind, Cardiff, Wales.

Swansea and South Wales Institution for the Blind, Swansea,
Wales.

II.

PARTIAL LIST OF INSTITUTIONS FOR THE ADULT BLIND IN THE UNITED STATES.

Industrial Home of Mechanical Trades for the Adult Blind,
Oakland, Cal.

Connecticut Institute and Industrial Home for the Blind, 334
and 336 Wethersfield avenue, Hartford, Conn.

Columbia Polytechnic Institute for the Blind, Washington,
D. C.

Illinois Industrial Home for the Blind, corner Nineteenth and
Marshall streets, Chicago, Ill.

Indiana Industrial Home for Blind Men, Indianapolis, Ind.

Workshops for the Blind, South Boston, Mass.

*Industrial Home and School for the Blind, Portland, Me.

*Michigan Employment Institution for the Blind, Saginaw, Mich.

St. Joseph's Home for the Blind, Pavonia avenue, Jersey City, N. J.

The Society for the Relief of the Destitute Blind, Amsterdam avenue and 104th street, New York City.

St. Joseph's Blind Asylum, Mt. Loretto, Prince's Bay, Staten Island, New York City.

Church Home for the Blind, 550 Washington avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y.

The Industrial Home for the Blind, 512 Gates avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Pennsylvania Working Home for Blind Men, 3518 Lancaster avenue, Philadelphia, Pa.

The Pennsylvania Industrial Home for Blind Women, 3827 Powelton avenue, Philadelphia, Pa.

Workshops for the Blind, Milwaukee, Wis.

III.

QUESTIONS SENT TO THE SEVERAL INSTITUTIONS FOR THE ADULT BLIND IN THE UNITED STATES.

- (1) What is the full corporate name of your institution?
- (2) Where is it located?
- (3) When was it established?
- (4) How is it supported, by private charity or by the State or government?

*Not yet in operation.

- (5) Is the institution self-supporting?
- (6) If not, what is the yearly deficit?
- (7) What is the annual per capita cost of maintaining the institution?
- (8) How many inmates have you?
- (9) How many can you accommodate?
- (10) Do you admit both sexes?
- (11) Do you have a workshop in connection with the institution?
- (12) How many of the workmen live in the institution?
- (13) How many live outside?
- (14) What industries are pursued?
- (15) Which one of these industries is most readily learned by the largest number of blind persons?
- (16) Which is apparently the most difficult for them to acquire?
- (17) Does the industry most easily learned yield the greatest or least financial result?
- (18) Are the workmen paid by the piece, or by the day, week or month?
- (19) What was the minimum annual wage earned by any workman last year?
- (20) What was the maximum?
- (21) How many seeing people are employed in the institution?
- (22) Do you find ready sale for all the articles manufactured?
- (23) Does the State or Government aid you in disposing of your products by purchasing any of them for use in State, county or municipal institutions?
- (24) Are the inmates generally congenial to each other and loyal to the officers of the institution?

(25) From your experience would you advise the establishment of industrial homes?

(26) We should be very glad of any personal information regarding your institution which will aid us in making a report to the Legislature—anything which you would state in a personal conversation.

IV. TABULATION OF REPLIES RECEIVED TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS.

(The numbers at the left correspond to the questions above.)

	Industrial Home of Mechanical Trades for the Adult Blind.	Columbia Polytechnic Institute for the Blind.	Connecticut Institute and Industrial Home for the Blind.	Illinois Industrial Home for the Blind.	Indiana Industrial Home for Blind Men.
1					
2	Oakland, Cal.....	Washington, D. C.....	Hartford, Conn.....	Chicago, Ill.....	Indianapolis, Ind.,
3	1885.....	1900.....	1883.....	1894.....	1900.....
4	State appropriations.....	One appropriation of \$5,000 from State, but expect to be self-supporting.....	Income from shop and \$300 per annum per capita from State.....	By State.....	Private charity.....
5	No.....	Not yet.....	No.....	No.....	Very nearly so.
6	There is no deficit.....	.....	.....	.....	Year ending July 1, 1903, \$65.50.
7	\$300.....	.....	Outside of workshops about \$212.78.	About \$490.....	No men board in Institution.
8	109.....	Not any.....	35.....	70.....	17.....
9	109.....	None as inmates.....	Not more than 38.....	70.....	50 workmen.
10	Yes.....	Employ both sexes.....	Yes.....	Yes.....	No.
11	Yes.....	.....	Yes.....	Yes.....	Yes.
12	All workmen reside at the Home.....	Not any.....	All live in institution.....	58.....	Not any.
13	Not any.....	All live in their own homes.....	Broom, mattress and basket making, chair caning, job printing and fancy work.....	12.....	All board outside.
14	Broom, mattress and hammock making and chair seating, etc.....	Printing and bookbinding.....	Broom making, chair caning for men; chair caning and basket work for women. Some learn one, some another with greater ease. Not much difference in profit of first three industries. This is simply industrial school.....	Manufacture of brooms.....	Manufacture of brooms.
15	Broom making.....	.....	.....	No trades taught here.....	Broom making.
16	Chair seating.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
17	Yes.....	By day and week.....	.....	.....	.....
18	All three ways. Inmates paid according to their capacity.....	.....	.....	Some by piece, others by day.....	All piecework.
19	\$60 per annum.....	.....	Cannot tell. Several support themselves and families comfortably.....	Minimum wage paid 66¢c. per day.....	\$156 40.
20	\$42 per annum.....	.....	.....	Maximum wage paid \$1 per day.....	\$310 19.
21	16 including superintendent.....	3 excluding private secretary.....	12 including seeing help in printing office and household.....	30.....	Only 1.

22	Yes. At present are not able to meet demands and workmen often work overtime.	.....	Yes	Yes	We do.
23	No. Sell to few State institutions but compete with seeing shops.	No	No	We have some trade with public institutions, but only through competition.	Sell to a few state and county institutions.
24	As a rule we have found them so. However, their management requires skill, knowledge and sound judgment.	.....	Generally. As much so as if they were seeing people.	No	They are.
25	By all means. I wish we had a larger institution in this State.	Only as a last resort for homeless blind persons.	Most emphatically	No. My advice would be to establish workshops for the blind, not homes.	I surely would.
26	Intelligent management of blind institutions should begin the day they are founded. Great care should be used in having the blind understand the rules that are to govern them. They should be taught to do all things well and be made to realize that all their work must be equal to that of seeing men and women. If they are allowed to slight their work, the industrial feature of the institution will be destroyed, and failure instead of success mark their efforts.	Our institution is so unlike any other in this country that I found it impossible to answer some of your questions. We aim to make it as much like all other business establishments as possible except the dividend feature, and our success is not limited by the inability of the blind to perform their part but by the capital at our command, and the amount of work we are able to obtain in competition with other establishments.	During the ten years since this institution was started over 125 blind people have been helped from a condition of absolute dependence to one of partial or complete self-support. Many have been saved from suicide and insanity and are to-day useful citizens.		

IV. TABULATION OF REPLIES RECEIVED TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS—(Concluded).

(The numbers at the left correspond to the questions above.)

1	Church Home for the Blind.	The Industrial Home for the Blind.	St. Joseph's Blind Asylum.	Pennsylvania Working Home for Blind Men.	The Pennsylvania Industrial Home for Blind Women.
2	Brooklyn, N. Y.	Brooklyn, N. Y.	Mt. Loretto, Staten Island, N. Y.	Philadelphia, Pa.	Philadelphia, Pa.
3	1896.	1893.	1894.	1874.	1868.
4	Episcopal Church with some aid from State Board of Charities.	Private charity	Private charity	Private charity, State and city.	Private charity.
5	It is not.	No	No	No	It is not.
6	is not in any sense self-supporting institution.	About \$4,000.	.....	Deficit varies with business conditions. Last year \$22,902.76.	.....
7	\$210.	.....	.....	.....	.....
8	19.	32.	28.	128.	63.
9	Our limit is reached.	50.	150.	Inmates, 130; outmates, 100.	63.
10	We do not	No (males)	No (girls)	Males only	Women only.
11	No	Yes.	No	Yes.	Work room.
12	Some board outside.	Some board outside.	.....	Some board outside.	.....
13	Some live with families or friends.	.....	.....	.....	.....
14	Chair caning, mattress and broom making.	Chair caning, mattress and broom making.	Knitting, bead work and basket making.	Broom making, chair caning, carpet weaving.	Knitting, chair caning, basket making, sewing on machine and by hand.
15	Chair caning.	Chair caning.	Knitting.	Broom making.	.....
16	Mattress making.	Mattress making.	Bead work.	Carpet weaving.	.....
17	Least return.	Least return.	.....	Gain in carpet weaving and chair caning; loss in broom making.	.....
18	.....	.....	.....	All piecework.	.....
19	.....	.....	.....	From \$5 to \$11 weekly.	.....
20	.....	.....	10.	16, including watchman, driver, gardener, etc.	15.
21	4.	6.	.....	Like other business—sales sometimes good and sometimes slow.	We do not.
22	.....	All sales subject to market conditions.	No	No. Furnish some city departments if bid is low enough.	They do not.
23	.....	To a limited extent.	No	.....	.....

24	Yes	Yes	Yes	They are.
25	For young and able-bodied persons, yes.	Yes, but the ideal is the factory without the home.	Yes.	We have no great reason to complain of either. Like sighted men in these particulars.
26	.....	.....	.....	By all means, as 85 per cent. of the blind are upwards of 21 years of age, the age limit for schools. Only three business principles in the proposition: Buy your raw material at first hands, keep the men employed 10 hours a day the year round, sell the product at the best possible price and I think the result will justify the establishment, etc.

APPENDIX F.

CLASSIFICATION OF EXPENSES INCURRED BY COM- MISSION.

Traveling expenses, hotel bills, etc.....	\$441 73
Postage, stationery, supplies, etc.....	150 67
Telegraph and telephone messages.....	11 80
Express	6 45
Expenses of field officers.....	626 72
Salary of clerk and extra stenographic services.....	258 33

\$1,495.70



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